



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,405	08/24/2000	Dave Williams		7340

7590 06/13/2002

R Wayne Pritchard  
Brandys Carson & Pritchard PC  
P O Box 1647  
El Paso, TX 79949

EXAMINER

FOSTER, DAVID A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/648,405**

Applicant(s)  
**Williams**

Examiner  
**David Foster**

Art Unit  
**2835**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 24, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 150,788.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2841

**DETAILED ACTION**

**SCREW LESS CLIP MOUNTED COMPUTER DRIVE**

**Williams**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Francovich et al. (5,828,547)

**Reference claim 1.** Francovich et al. disclose a screw less means for attaching a computer drive comprising securing clips (Figure 7, item 68) and securing pins (Figure 7, item 74).

**Reference claim 2.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREW LESS computer drive attachment means as in claim 1 wherein the securing clips further comprise at least two securing pins (Figure 6, items 74) small enough and long enough to fit through holes present on the computer chassis (Figure 7, item 76), into the standardized screw holes (column 5, line 49) present on the computer drive.

Art Unit: 2841

**Reference claim 3.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREW LESS computer drive attachment means as in claim 2 further comprising a means for attaching the securing clips to the computer chassis (column 5, line 59).

**Reference claim 4.** Francovich et al. disclose a screw less means for attaching a computer drive comprising securing clips (Figure 6, item 68), securing pins (Figure 6, item 74) and clip mounting features (column 5, line 59 ).

**Reference claim 5.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREWLESS computer drive attachment means as in Claim 4 wherein the Axxion Application securing clips further comprise at least two securing pins small enough and long enough to fit through holes present on the computer chassis, into the standardized screw holes present on the computer drive (column 5, line 50).

**Reference claim 6.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREWLESS computer drive attachment means as in Claim 5 wherein the securing clips further comprise flexible tabs (Figure 7, item 80 and column 5, line 59) designed to engage the clip mounting features.

**Reference claim 7.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREWLESS computer drive attachments means as in Claim 5 further comprising a means for attaching the clip mounting features to the computer chassis (column 5, line 54).

**Reference claim 8.** Francovich et al. disclose a SCREWLESS computer drive attachments means as in Claim 5 wherein the clip mounting features are formed from and as a part of the computer chassis (column 5, line 42).

Art Unit: 2841

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francovich et al. (5,828,547). Francovich et al. do not disclose a method of assembly. However, the method of assembly is obvious in view of the apparatus rejected above. It is obvious that Francovich et al. possess a method of assembly for their apparatus and a rejection is appropriate in view of the apparatus rejection above.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The best art to consider with this application can be found in Jeffries et al. (5,682,291), Astier (5,788,211), Johnson (5,806,949), and Brunel et al. (5,921,644). Jeffries et al. disclose a method and apparatus for quickly and easily securing a computer device wherein the carrier contains a plurality of dowels that align with pre-existing screw holes on the device, Astier discloses a fixing piece for use in fixing a data-storage drive unit and similar units in position on a support structure wherein the fixing piece is formed with projections for engaging in holes in the walls of the unit to restrain movement of the latter, Johnson discloses a slide rail

Art Unit: 2841

for mounting internal devices such as floppy disks and hard disks inside a computer case wherein the slide rail includes a biased mounting post which mates with matching mounting holes on opposite sides of the internal device and Brunel et al. disclose a mounting arrangement enabling the mounting of either size of units in the same space wherein the mounting tray includes two stepped side members provided with studs for engaging side fixing holes in the drive units.


Any inquiry concerning to this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to David Foster whose telephone number is (703) 308-1763. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Darren E. Schuberg, who can be reached on (703) 308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)308-7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DAF

June 10, 2002

  
**DARREN SCHUBERG**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800